

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Accountability Update - Deduction Inquiry Process

As we have done in the past, OEA will have a Deduction Inquiry Process this summer in advance of the general Report Card Inquiry Process, and prior to the release of 2015-16 School and District Report Cards. The deduction inquiry process is for schools and districts that – based on **preliminary** calculations – would receive deductions for either the absenteeism or dropout rate student engagement indicators.

- *The third Student Engagement Indicator included in the report cards is test participation. We will not include test participation in this Deduction Inquiry Process due to data availability. The next window to review data and submit an inquiry form will be in September (date TBD), upon release of the secure report cards.*

The Deduction Inquiry Process is an opportunity to review data and submit an inquiry form if necessary. There will be a two-week window for this process: **July 25-August 5**. Please plan accordingly to ensure that staff are able to conduct a review of deduction data should your school or district receive preliminary notification. We anticipate sending notifications out on or before Monday, July 25th.

- *If your school(s)/district received an Alternate Accountability notification, please note we will not be sending deduction inquiries notifications to those schools.*

Again, there will be another opportunity to review data and submit an inquiry form following the release of secure report cards in September (date TBD). We will notify you as soon as dates are set for the September report card inquiry process.

Please let us know if you have any questions (oeamail@dpi.wi.gov).

Farewell

This will be my last DAC Digest. I wish you all well. It has been wonderful to work with so many amazing educators throughout the state. I know that there is sometimes concern over the amount of testing that takes place in schools, but I believe that our statewide assessments are an important tool for equity. When schools and districts strategically use and examine their data, and then respond by adapting instruction for all learners, more children can be successful, not only in school but in the world of work and life. If groups of children are not doing well, educators must question the curriculum and teaching techniques to change the outcomes for more and more children. I know there are many of these reflective educators in Wisconsin, and I hope many more will continue to join their ranks. I believe the assessment system we have developed here in Wisconsin will continue to contribute to the growing success of more and more students.

Thank you for your support over the years. I know Viji and the OSA staff will continue doing the remarkable work they have always done.

~Troy

Troy Couillard, Director - Office of Student Assessment

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

FORWARD EXAM

- **NEW - Forward Exam Standard Setting**
 - Last week, nearly 100 educators from around the state participated in the WI Forward Exam Standard Setting in Wisconsin Dells. The workshop was co-hosted by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the designer of the Forward Exam, and the DPI. Participants reviewed and analyzed test data, and set standards and benchmarks for the Forward Exam. Participants used the Wisconsin State Standards to write Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) for proficiency levels. There are four ALDs: advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic. Participants also reviewed individual test items, focusing on difficulty level based on actual student performance data. Lengthy discussions about why one item might be considered more difficult by students followed this analysis. Lastly, the group learned how to set benchmarks in the test to decide cut score recommendations. Over the course of three rounds of benchmark placement, participants worked both individually and as a group to come to consensus on cut scores for each proficiency level. These recommendations will now be reviewed by DPI for consistency, culminating in a recommendation to the State Superintendent.
- **REMINDER - Student Reports**
 - Forward Exam student reports and summaries will be posted to a secure web-based report delivery system, accessed through eDIRECT, in late-July. The system reporting tools will allow users to extract data in an Excel or .csv file. Hardcopies of individual student reports will be mailed to districts in early August.

ACT HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

ACT

- **REMINDER - Important shipments to be expected this summer:**
 - Printed individual reports for students assessed with State-allowed accommodations with scores that are non-college reportable will be mailed at the end of this month to your high school Test Coordinator.
 - ACT Profile Reports will be printed and sent during the second week of July via FedEx to your high school Test Coordinator.
 - Data CDs will be sent during the second week of July to districts via FedEx and to the attention of the DAC .

The deliverables above (CDs, ACT Profile reports) are shipped in a plain, white cardboard envelope with a FedEx shipping label and the return address in the top left corner as ACT, Inc.; 2727 Scott Boulevard. Please inform your employees who will be available at the school and district offices this summer that these shipments contain the ACT reporting information and that the information should be handled securely. Also, please make necessary plans to provide this information to the relevant staff for appropriate use of this data internally. **Note that the results are embargoed until the statewide press release this fall, and the data should not be shared publicly until then.**

ACT WorkKeys

- **REMINDER - ACT WorkKeys NCRCs:**

- As mentioned in previous DAC Digests, DPI is working toward making WorkKeys data available in WISEdash, and producing NCRC certificates that will be distributed electronically to schools via SAFE. We are aware that individual reports from ACT indicate that students can go to MyWorkKeys.com to access their scores. However, we strongly advise against doing this, as this will result in creating duplicate student accounts. Since WI has a contract with ACT, we will be doing a statewide sweep through RegiStar to set up student accounts when creating the NCRCs; therefore, it is advised that students access their MyWorkKeys.com accounts **AFTER** DPI makes the certificates and login/password information available through SAFE in the coming weeks. Please share this information with your high school test coordinator(s) as needed.

ACT Aspire

- **REMINDER** - Individual student reports and summary reports will be available in the ASPIRE portal by late July.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM)

- **NEW** - The DLM system has updated the supported platforms for KITE Client (secure browser) and Educator Portal for the 2016-17 school year. The revised list of supported platforms is available below and on the [KITE Suite Requirements](#) page on the DLM website.

Supported Platforms for KITE Client 2016-17	Educator Portal Supported Platforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Windows 7, 8.1, 10 (desktop, laptop)● MAC OS X 10.10 – 10.11● Chromebook● iPad, IOS 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Firefox 38.7.1 or above● Safari 9.0.3 or above● Internet Explorer 11● Chrome 35 or above

This summer, district and technology personnel should plan accordingly to prepare for testing in the 2016-17 school year.

PALS

- **NEW - PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System**

- The PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System will **not** be available to most districts **after June 30, 2016** (Districts that have contracted with PALS for the 2016-17 school year will still maintain access). Districts should download their student data from the system prior to this date. DPI will be loading the PALS spring data in WISEdash for Districts but the data will not be available until mid-summer.

- **REMINDER - 2016-17 Reading Readiness Assessment:**

- If you still have questions or need information about 2016-17 assessing reading readiness requirements, please refer to any of the previous DAC Digests from the month of April.

- **NEW** - Efforts are currently underway with our School Management Team here at DPI to define the reimbursement process for 2016-17, and we will provide further information as soon as it is available.
- **REMINDER - CESA Purchasing Agreement - DEADLINE EXTENDED to JUNE 24:**
 - As mentioned in the 4/6/16 DAC Digest, PALS has partnered with the CESA Statewide Network to offer Wisconsin school districts the opportunity to renew their PALS contract through CESA Purchasing. More information about this CESA Purchasing-PALS Partnership, including an [FAQ](#) and details about [incentives and professional development opportunities](#), can be found at the [CESA Purchasing website](#).

NAEP

- **REMINDER** - Principals in schools selected for NAEP will receive notification letters the last week of June. The letters will include more information about the assessments in their school as well as their assessment date. If the assigned date does not work for a school, principals can work with Angela Dugas to reschedule. DACs will be emailed a list of testing dates after the letters go out.
- **REMINDER** - Here are answers to some recent and frequently asked NAEP questions:
 - NAEP was included in the reauthorization of ESEA, and the requirements for participation stay the same. Districts that receive Title I funds provide an assurance upon accepting those funds that their schools will participate in NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics assessments, if selected.
 - Student participation is voluntary. As part of the pre-assessment tasks that a school completes to prepare for NAEP testing, parents must be notified that participation is voluntary.
 - Total testing time for students is up to, but no more than 120 minutes, with an exception made for students with extended time accommodations. Most students will test on tablets, where they will work at their own pace through the assessments; many students finish in less than 120 minutes. Students sampled for the paper-pencil assessments will only test for about 90 minutes.
 - It's a common misconception that NAEP schools and districts are selected "randomly." The sampling method used by the National Center for Educational Statistics is a systematic sampling process, with probability of selection proportional to size. There is also some stratification used during the sampling procedure. It is true that some schools are selected more often than others; and this is a big NAEP year, so there are more schools selected in Wisconsin than in many previous years. Once a school is selected, the students within that school are selected randomly to fill a pre-determined sample size. Smaller schools, therefore, often end up having all students in a grade sampled. More information about NAEP sampling can be found [here](#); if you would like a fact sheet with this information emailed to you, please contact angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov.

DAC DIGEST DIGESTIBLES (Dates/tasks that are newly added this week are in **bold**)

Important Dates to Remember		
June	30: Last day to access the PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System and download student data	PALS
	30: Alternate Accountability Determination Forms due to oeamail@dpi.wi.gov	OEA
July	25 - Aug. 5: Deduction Inquiry Process	OEA
August	22-25: DRC Item Review meetings	Forward

Important Tasks to Remember		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan accordingly to ensure that staff are able to conduct a review of deduction data during the 7/25-8/5 window should your school or district receive preliminary notification	OEA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Update DAC contact information and submit to OSA	General
<input type="checkbox"/>	Update secure browser for DLM KITE Client	DLM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Share Vendor-based Reporting Overview with relevant members of your team	General

Online Resource Highlights*		
<i>As new resources are posted to our website, we will include them here for your convenience. This is NOT an exhaustive list, but meant to highlight resources with significant relevance to our upcoming test windows.</i>		
Resource	Contains	Assessment
2016 Vendor-Based Reporting Overview	Outline of vendor-based reports from 2015-16 spring testing, including report descriptions, where/when/how to access, directions for use and distribution, etc.	General